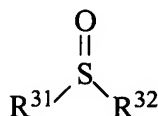


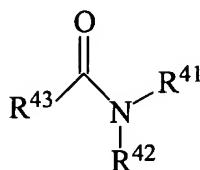
**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. **(Currently Amended)** A photothermographic material comprising, on one side of a support, a photosensitive silver halide, a non-photosensitive silver salt of an organic acid, a reducing agent for silver ions and a binder, which is characterized by containing at least one phenol compound as the reducing agent and

at least one compound having a hydrogen bond formation rate constant  $K_f$  that is 20-4000, and which is represented by the following formula (III) or (IV):



( III )



( IV )

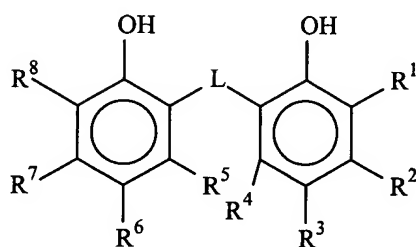
wherein:

in the formula (III),  $\text{R}^{31}$  and  $\text{R}^{32}$  independently represent an alkyl group, an aryl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group, and  $\text{R}^{31}$  and  $\text{R}^{32}$  may be taken together to form a ring;

and in the formula(IV),  $\text{R}^{41}$  and  $\text{R}^{42}$  independently represent an alkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group,  $\text{R}^{43}$  represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group or N-

(R<sup>44</sup>)(R<sup>45</sup>) where R<sup>44</sup> and R<sup>45</sup> independently represent an alkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group, and two or more of R<sup>41</sup>, R<sup>42</sup>, [[R<sup>43</sup>],] R<sup>44</sup> and R<sup>45</sup> may be taken together to form a ring.

2. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to claim 1, wherein the phenol compound is at least one o-polyphenol compound represented by the following formula I



(I)

wherein R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, and R<sup>7</sup> are hydrogen atoms, R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> represent an alkyl group and R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> represent an alkyl group, and L represents a group -CHR<sup>9</sup>- where R<sup>9</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, a methyl group, an ethyl group, an isopropyl group, an n-propyl group, a heptyl group, a 1-ethylpentyl group, and an undecyl group.

3. (Original) The photothermographic material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the hydrogen bond formation rate constant K<sub>f</sub> is 70 to 4000.

4. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the hydrogen bond formation rate constant  $K_f$  is 100-4000.

5. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the hydrogen bond formation rate constant  $K_f$  is 250-2000.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The photothermographic material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the ~~compound of the requirement B~~ at least one compound having a hydrogen bond formation rate constant  $K_f$  that is 20-4000 is represented by the formula (III).

8. (Currently Amended) The photothermographic material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the ~~compound of the requirement B~~ at least one compound having a hydrogen bond formation rate constant  $K_f$  that is 20-4000 is represented by the formula (IV).

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the amount of the phenol compound is 0.01-40 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

11. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the amount of said at least one compound is 0.01-40g/m<sup>2</sup>.